

chased for in the United States. This is one effect of the National Policy and is a great boon to the agricultural community. The country, however, requires about 600,000 more people in it to maintain the present number of cotton mills, but these are quickly coming, as 100,000 landed on our shores last year."

Now, Mr. Speaker, that statement has to be taken with more than one *granum salis*. 600,000 is a big figure, but we have been accustomed in the past to big figures. Year by year we were told that hundreds of thousands of people were coming into Manitoba and the North-West Territories; but these figures, when they came to be investigated, dwindled to very small proportions. But leaving that aside, it is now stated that good shirtings can be manufactured in this country at a lower figure than in the United States. Why, then, should the cotton manufacturers be afraid to throw down the barrier which is keeping the American market from them? Their advantage would be to have, not only an increased market of 600,000 souls, but of 60,000,000. Therefore I have every reason to hope that not merely a few manufacturers, but all the manufacturers of the country, will before long be convinced of the truth of the policy we have offered them. The most important feature of His Excellency's Speech is the paragraph referring to the Fisheries Treaties. The statement is not as clear and as simple as I would have desired, and I suppose we shall have occasion before long to revert to it, when we shall have a more precise communication from the Government. The only thing I would say at present is this: It now only remains for Canada to continue to maintain her rights, as prescribed in the Treaty of 1818, until some satisfactory re-adjustment is arranged by treaty between the two Governments. This is a matter which should be approached with a great deal of caution and deliberation. For my part, at this moment, I am not disposed to enter critically into the announcement which is here made, but will content myself with offering my suggestion as to what, in my estimation, should be the true policy to be followed. As I understand, the Government have determined to fall back upon the Convention of 1818, and to assert all the rights claimed as belonging to Canada under that convention. Before going further I would say sincerely I agree in this with the mover of the Address, that it is to be deprecated that the treaty of last year was not ratified by the Senate of the United States. Not that it was a satisfactory treaty; on the contrary, it was a very unsatisfactory treaty. It forced upon Canada concessions without giving any adequate return, but, in my opinion, the worst feature of the treaty was that it left open many of the causes of irritation which in the past had disturbed the cordiality of our relations with our neighbors. Still, it was a step in the right direction towards closer relations, and, though a feeble step, it would have met, as it did meet, with our approval as far as it went. Now, however, that treaty has been abandoned, and it is proposed to revert to the enforcement of the Convention of 1818. The only suggestion I would offer to the Government, approaching this question, not critically, not in any partisan spirit, would be that the Government should not be too hasty in adopting such a policy, but that perhaps it would be prudent on their part to wait until the month of March, when the new Administration is to come into power, and then ascertain how far they are prepared to meet our views. We must remember this, also, that although we have contended for a certain interpretation of the treaty, and although we have claimed to enforce rights under that treaty, we have also to a certain extent admitted, by the fact that we became party to the negotiation of a new treaty, that there were causes for considering the possibility of entering into new arrangements as far as our rights were concerned. We have thus admitted that the contention of the Americans that our views of the treaty are antiquated is, to some extent, true. The American statesmen say that our interpretation of the

treaty is antiquated. That may or may not be the case, but, if it be antiquated, it would be more logical, and more friendly as well, on their part, to make that representation when it can be coupled with an offer to negotiate a new treaty. I know that the position of our Government in that respect is not a facile one; I know that it is full of difficulties, and I recognise all those difficulties, but it would be, in my judgment, the part of prudence to enforce our rights, when our rights are to be enforced, with as gentle a hand as possible. I have stated elsewhere that the relations between the two countries have not been satisfactory. The hon. gentleman who moved the Address stated that I had taken an exceptional position on that question. Nay, the position which I took was the position always held by the Liberal party, that it was fair, right and just that our views of the treaty should be enforced; still, there were some acts which had been done by us which could not be condoned. Whatever you may say, when men are sent back in distress to sea and refused provisions, there are no mere technicalities which would force me to approve such an act. I say that this treatment cannot be condoned, and it was this treatment which I denounced last summer. As I said a moment ago, those were my views then and they are mine now, but I do not intend to enter critically upon that question to-day. We shall have occasion to do so at a later day when we will have more complete communication from the Government on the subject. The only thing I have to say at present is this, that the whole subject, in my judgment, should be approached in as friendly a spirit as possible. There are those among us who believe that a friendly act towards the American nation is an unfriendly act to Canada and to England. Such is not my view. My view, on the contrary, is that every act of friendship done by Canada to the United States is a good service to England. My hon. friend from Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), in the most admirable speech which he delivered some time ago in Ingersoll, elaborated the idea, at great length, that England would never have any better ally than the great Republic to the south of us, and it must strike everybody that if to-day or to-morrow England were entangled, as she may be any moment, in a continental war, her strength would be ten-fold, if she could depend upon the moral sympathy—I say, moral sympathy alone—not only of her colonies but even of the great American Republic; and if I were to speak my whole mind on the subject, I would say that any act done anywhere which would increase the friendship among the branches of the Anglo-Saxon family the world over is a step forward in the civilisation of the world. Further, I will not say to-day. We are not many on this side of the House, not as many as we should be for the good of the country, but few as we are we intend to do the best we can for the country; and though we shall exercise in a perfectly free spirit our right to criticise the acts of the Government, we shall at the same time do our best to accelerate the business of the country.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I can congratulate the House and the country on the very kindly and good-natured manner in which my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, has addressed the House. That has always, however, I am free to admit, been his course both before and since he assumed the responsible position which he now holds, and I hope and believe the tone which he has adopted will be followed not only by his own friends, but by those who are opposed to him politically, and that while we may agree to disagree on many points of public policy, we will forget all the old acerbities and continue, during this Session, the kindly, the parliamentary tone which my hon. friend has adopted. I can heartily agree with my hon. friend in the cordial and graceful compliments which he has paid to the mover and seconder of this Address. I shall say no more, leaving it to this House and the readers of the Debates, to